

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY INT: JEDEYOUNG

APPROVED BY SSCARPENTER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HICOMTERPACIS, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095846

FROM INTDEPT/ DASTA

REFERENCE VISIT OF ASTRONAUTS TO TRUST TERRITORY. QUOTE THE WHITE HOUSE WILL OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE TO THE PRESS AT 1 100, MAY 18, 1973, THE APOLLO 17 GOODWILL TOUR. YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM HOST GOVT TIMING OF RELEASE FOR SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT. PROPOSED TEXT FOLLOWS: PRESIDENT NIXON HAS ASKED THE APOLLO 17 ASTRONAUTS EUGENE A. CERNAN, RONALD E. EVANS, AND HARRISON H. SCHMITT TO VISIT SENEGAL, NIGER, NIGERIA, CAMEROON, PAKISTAN, INDIA, SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, MICRONESIA, AND FIJI. IN ADDITION, REST STOPS ARE PLANNED IN LAS PALMAS, IVORY COAST, AND KENYA. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MRS CERNAN AND MRS EVANS ON THIS GOODWILL TOUR. THIS TOUR, LIKE EARLIER OVERSEAS TOURS OF THE APOLLO ASTRONAUTS, WILL BE A PRESIDENTIAL GOODWILL MISSION IN WHAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS CALLED 'THE SPIRIT OF APOLLO.' THE ASTRONAUTS WILL SHARE THEIR FINDINGS OF THE APOLLO MISSION WITH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES OF THE COUNTRIES VISITED AND WILL ALSO ADDRESS UNIVERSITY AUDIENCES. THROUGH SUCH GOODWILL TOURS, THE US HAS SOUGHT TO SHARE SPACE KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHER NATIONS AND TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL SPACE EXPLORATION. THE FOLLOWING IS THE ASTRONAUTS PROPOSED ITINERARY: SENEGAL, JUNE 6; NIGER, JUNE 8; NIGERIA, JUNE 10; CAMEROON, JUNE 13; PAKISTAN, JUNE 17; INDIA, JUNE 19; SINGAPORE, JUNE 21; INDONESIA, JUNE 24; PHILIPPINES, JUNE 27; MICORNESIA, JUNE 29; FIJI, JULY 1; UNQUOTE, END OF ANNOUNCEMENT. YOU MAY NOW PUBLICIZE THIS IN THE TT.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, ESTIMATED TIME AIRRIVAL SAIPAN IS JUNE 29,

WITH EDA ONE JULY, ARRIVING MAJURO AM JULY ONE AND DEPARTING MAJURO
PM JULY ONE, PRESUMABLY, FOR FIJI. HAVE NO INFORMATION AS YET ON
MODE OF TRAVEL, BUT ASSUME IT WILL BE BY MILITARY PLANE AND YOU
WILL BE INFORMED LATER ON EXACT ARRIVAL TIMES. SGD STANLEY S.
CARPENTER.
RUSH

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